

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A tap for use in a cable television system, comprising:

- an input port for receiving an input signal comprising a first signal within a first bandwidth and a second signal within a second bandwidth separate from the first bandwidth;
- a tap circuit coupled to the input port for receiving [an] the input signal and splitting the input signal into output signals within the first bandwidth;
- a modem coupled to the input port for receiving the input signal, filtering the input signal to forward the first signal, and demodulating the [input signal] first signal to generate a demodulated signal including data; [and]
- a packetizer coupled to the modem for receiving the demodulated signal, [and] arranging the data into data packets, and generating data signals that include the data packets and that are within the second bandwidth;
- a plurality of combiners for generating combined signals, each combiner combining an output signal from the tap circuit with a data signal from the packetizer to provide one of the combined signals; and
- a plurality of subscriber ports for transmitting the combined signals from the tap, each subscriber port coupled to one of the combiners [for transmission from the tap].

2. (Amended) The tap of claim 1, [further comprising:

- an input port coupled to the tap circuit and the modem for providing the input signal thereto; and
- a plurality of subscriber ports coupled to the tap circuit and the modem for transmitting the output signals and the data packets from the tap] wherein each subscriber port transmits a combined signal from the tap to a subscriber premises over a single coaxial cable.

3. (Amended) The tap of claim 1, wherein the [output signals include] first bandwidth includes information transmitted at greater than 50 MHz.

4. (Amended) The tap of claim 1, wherein the [data included in the data packets is] second bandwidth includes information transmitted at less than 50 MHz.

5. (Amended) The tap of claim 1, further comprising:

a highpass filter coupled to the tap circuit for filtering low frequency signals within the second bandwidth prior to processing of the input signal by the tap circuit.

6. (Amended) The tap of claim 1, further comprising:

a lowpass filter coupled to the modem for filtering high frequency signals included within the first bandwidth prior to processing of the input signal by the modem.

10. (Amended) The tap of claim 1, [further comprising:

a directional coupler coupled to an output of the packetizer and to an output of the tap circuit for combining the output signals and the data packets for transmission to subscribers over coaxial cables] wherein the plurality of combiners includes diplex filters for combining low frequency data signals with higher frequency output signals to result in the combined signals.

11. (Amended) A communication system comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting a first signal including information in a first frequency range;

a system combiner coupled to the first transmitter and to an outside data source for combining the first signal with a second signal, which includes data transmitted in a second frequency range, for transmission over a communication medium as a forward electrical signal;

a tap coupled to the communication medium for receiving the forward electrical signal and for splitting portions of the [first and second signals] forward electrical signal off to subscribers of the communication system, the tap comprising:

a tap circuit for splitting the forward electrical signal into output signals including the information;

a modem for demodulating the forward electrical signal to generate a demodulated signal including the data; [and]

a packetizer coupled to the modem for receiving the demodulated signal and arranging the data into data packets, wherein the packetizer further generates a plurality of data signals that include the data packets;